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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Hirokazu SHODA et al.  
Title: IMAGE COMPRESSION APPARATUS, IMAGE DEPRESSION APPARATUS AND METHOD THEREOF  
Application No.: 09/955,290  
Filing Date: 09/19/2001  
Examiner: I. Sherali  
Art Unit: 2621

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated February 9, 2006, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: